

# Saxbe Confirms Offer

By Donald Kneeland  
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## Washington

Senator William B. Saxbe, an Ohio Republican with a reputation for outspokenness and a sometime critic of President Nixon, said last night that he has been offered the post of U.S. Attorney General and has accepted.

In an interview in his Senate office, Saxbe made it clear that he could not say definitely that he would be nominated until he had been formally "tapped" by the President.

Although he replied affirmatively to questions about whether he has been offered and has accepted the job, he equivocated a bit on the certainty of the nomination.

"I believe, or I'd like to believe," he said "that it's pretty firm."

After meeting yesterday morning with the President, the 57-year-old Saxbe said that he was "relatively sure" he will be nominated.

There were reports from several sources here last night that Mr. Nixon would today nominate Saxbe to be attorney general and also nominate Leon Jaworski, a prominent Houston lawyer, to be the new Watergate prosecutor.

Emerging into the noon-time sunshine, Saxbe strolled over willingly to face the 50 or more reporters and photographers who had awaited him since his car was discovered in the driveway earlier in the morning. Ronald Ziegler, the White House press secretary, was at his side, smiling slightly.

Saxbe, standing before the television cameras, said he thought "the offer was implied when I walked in there."

"I was contemplating going back to Mechanicsburg (his Ohio home), but this is a challenge I can't turn down," said Saxbe, who announced earlier this



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A HAPPY SEN. WILLIAM SAXBE  
Nixon offered and he accepted

month he would not seek re-election when his first term expires at the end of next year.

He said the next move "will come from the President." He said he expected some action to be taken in the next few days.

Rarely, if ever, has a prospective presidential appointee spoken so freely.

In his news conference, which White House officials agreed to after guards had first tried to chase reporters from the driveway and lawn, Saxbe described what appeared to have been a lengthy, free-wheeling dis-

ussion with the President.

"I had a very satisfactory discussion with the President," the senator said. "We asked each other questions."

Last December, at the time of the renewed bombing of North Vietnam, Saxbe said the President appeared to have "left his senses."

In answer to a question, he said that the President had recalled that statement yesterday.

"I said he'd have to take me warts an all," Saxbe declared.

The plain-talking Ohioan also has been quoted in the past as having compared the

President's contention that he had no knowledge of the Watergate break-in and overup to protestations by a piano player in a house of prostitution that he didn't know what was going on upstairs.

After acknowledging in last night's interview that he had made the remark, he was asked if he felt now that the President hadn't known what was going on.

"I satisfied myself that he really didn't," Saxbe said.

Saxbe seemed at other times yesterday to be attempting to minimize his differences with the President.

"Really, the challenge to me is to go to work at the Justice Department and bring it up to the standards I think it needs," said the former three-time attorney general of Ohio.

He also took pains to point out that he had said publicly, even before Mr. Nixon

discussed the attorney generalship with him, that he thought tape-recordings of presidential conversations should be privileged and that the U.S. Supreme Court would probably hold so.